FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

4 FEBRUARY 1987

Lebanon

The Iranian Foreign Ministry "categorically denied" a U.S. television report that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite is being held by Iranian Revolution Guards in Lebanon, IRNA reported. In Israel, Jerusalem radio cited Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's remark that Israel would consider helping the United States launch a military operation in Lebanon if asked to do so. However, Shamir added that Israel has not been asked for help, and he did not think such a request would be forthcoming.

Regarding the ongoing Amal-Palestinian conflict, Radio Monte Carlo reported 4 February that Amal leader Nabih Birri and Palestinian officials have agreed on a new cease-fire which could end the "camps war." The agreement was reached in Damascus after "intensive efforts and direct intervention" by Syrian leaders, the radio said.

A new clandestine Lebanese radio entitled the "Voice of the People" has been heard reporting on the Lebanese Communist Party's Fifth Congress, which opened in B'aqlin 3 February. Moscow radio's Arabic service noted that the CPSU is represented at the Congress by Karen Brutents, deputy head of the Central Committee's Foreign Relations Department.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio reported that Iraqi warplanes raided six Iranian cities 3 February. Targets included Shiraz, Tabriz, the Esfahan oil refinery, and an oil-loading container in the northern part of the Gulf. An Iranian communique cited by IRNA acknowledged that "scores" of Iranian civilians were killed in raids on 12 cities 2-3 February. Iranian jets bombed Iraqi military positions near Basra 2, 3, and 4 February, according to IRNA.

U.S. journalist Gerald Seib will be expelled from Iran during the next 2-3 days, Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi announced in an interview broadcast by Tehran radio 4 February. Musavi said the reporter had been engaged in "certain investigations and collecting intelligence at the fronts," but the issue was "clarified" after he was interrogated.

Israel-USSR

Senior officials cited by *The Jerusalem Post* downplayed the significance of recent talks between the Israeli and Soviet ambassadors in Washington, stressing that the Soviet side merely reiterated the USSR's interest in sending a delegation to Israel to sort out consular affairs. The officials said there is no change in Soviet policy toward Jewish emigration or toward the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel.

Afghanistan

The Rome paper *La Repubblica* published an interview with PDPA General Secretary Najibullah in which he maintained that Soviet troops would withdraw "immediately" from Afghanistan if foreign military aid to the mujahidin was terminated. This position differs radically from previous Soviet and DRA plans for a gradual withdrawal of Soviet troops, the paper pointed out. Najibullah also said that the former king of Afghanistan could return home from Italy if he is willing to perform a role in the national reconciliation process.

Diplomats in Islamabad cited by AFP said that mujahidin in Parvan Province have captured a 14-member delegation from the government's National Reconciliation Committee, sending its leader back to Kabul with the message that no arrangement can be made until the Soviets leave the country.

Saudi Oil Policy

A Petroleum Ministry source cited by Riyadh radio denied a report by the London Economicst Intelligence Unit which claimed that the Kingdom's commitment to barter deals will cause its production to rise above the OPEC quota level. Saudi Arabia is committed in letter and spirit to the OPEC agreement, the source stressed, and it will not abandon this commitment as long as the other OPEC states adhere to their quotas. He added that all barter deals involving the Kingdom are counted as part of its quota.

North Africa

Chad — A military communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio announced that Chadian air defenses shot down a Libyan MiG-25 in the Zouar region 2 February. A related commentary by the radio claimed that Libya has lost over 2,000 men in the fighting in northern Chad, adding that this clearly shows Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's "military defeat" on Chadian territory.

Melilla Unrest — The Spanish authorities in Melilla have charged 24 Muslims with sedition after recent demonstrations in Spain's North African enclave, AFP reported. A Muslim leader accused of instigating the incidents has taken refuge in Morocco.

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Rome Daily Carries Najibullah Interview

PM031746 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 1-2 Feb 87 p 9

[Interview with PDPA General Secretary Najibullah by Saeed Naqvi on 29 January in Kabul]

[Text] Kabul — Soviet troops would withdraw from Afghanistan "immediately" if foreign military aid to the Islamic guerrillas were to cease.

This was announced to us by PDPA General Secretary Mohammad Najibullah.

Najib is the man whom the Kremlin decided should replace Babrak Karmal when it realized that its handling of the Afghan business could not be confined to the military aspect and that it would have to become increasingly political and diplomatic.

During the interview that he granted us last Thursday [29 January], Najibullah added that the assurances concerning the final termination of aid to the Afghan guerrillas would have to be very trustworthy. If so, Najibullah argued, following the Red Army's withdrawal the Afghan troops would be able to deal with the domestic situation on their own.

This position differs radically from the Kremlin's and Kabul's previous plans, which envisaged the gradual withdrawal of the over 100,000 Soviet troops within a predetermined number of years until the Afghan situation is stabilized.

The interview — an hour-long in-depth conversation — was granted to us in the huge five-floor building that houses the offices of the PDPA Central Committee, next to the presidential palace where President Daoud and his ministers were murdered by rebel troops on 3 April 1978 — the day that marked the start of the revolution.

Geneva Negotiations

Najibullah has said an accord has been reached by Kabul and Moscow on the conditions and plan for a Soviet withdrawal. When talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan resume in Geneva at the end of February "our position will be made clearer."

Najib revealed that the two neighboring countries are negotiating another point: It concerns the "comprehensive monitoring" of the four points that Afghanistan and Pakistan believe should constitute the basis of an accord. Namely, who will monitor observance of the accord once it is has been reached?

The three points on which agreement has already been reached in Geneva concern: a — noninterference in each country's territories and from outside [as published]; b — nonintervention by other countries, which must be guaranteed by the Soviet Union and the United States; and c — the return of the Afghan refugees currently in Pakistan.

The fourth point under discussion, which links a Soviet troop withdrawal to observance of the other three points, should be signed at the resumption of the Geneva talks, under the auspices of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's special representative Diego Cordovez.

Previously the problem of "monitoring" was broached within the context of the item concerning simply the guarantees of the accord. "Now a fifth document — a kind of memorandum — is being discussed by the two sides and Cordovez," Najibullah said.

According to the Afghan leader the monitoring machinery has a good chance of working under Cordovez' authority: In other words, the two sides could agree to UN monitoring of observance of the accord when it is implemented.

Another topic broached by the Afghan leader was the return to Afghanistan of King Zahir Shah, who currently lives in voluntary exile in Rome. His return home could be accepted if he were willing to perform a role in the national reconciliation process. "Whoever works for an independent, neutral, democratic, and nonaligned Afghanistan will be welcome," Najibullah said.

Asked "Would you be willing to consider Zahir Shah for some kind of constitutional role within the new order," Najibullah replied: "His position within Afghanistan's new order would be determined by the role he plays in the country's pacification process."

Although the reconciliation process is progressing, Najibullah did not conceal the fact that there are still many clashes in various parts of the country.

"The major obstacles on the way to a reconciliation are the armed forces of Peshawar, assisted by West Europe and the United States."

Najibullah did not fail to recall the worst moments of the revolution, the first years after the king's ouster: "Hafizullah Amin was the Pol Pot of Afghanistan. He introduced slogans for which the country was not yet ready and took no account of the Afghan people's traditions and culture.

"We are moving toward a national unity government. We have already included in the Executive five ministers of previous regimes. We intend to tackle the problem of the vast supplies of weapons held by the rebels by building a "bridge" between the traditional right that permits the possession of weapons in Afghanistan and the new legislation. For instance, in our tradition the right to life did not exist and anyone was entitled to kill."

The essence of Najibullah's argument is this: If the weapons were used to overthrow the system, this would not be permitted. But the general secretary did not say that the rebels will have to surrender their weapons.

"The PDPA has never described the revolution as a socialist revolution. It was, and still is, a national democratic revolution. The errors were committed under Amin. Kabul has offered to send special aircraft to Pakistan and Iran to facilitate the refugees' return. Both governments have refused.

[Naqvi] You said at a press conference: "We intend to proclaim Islam as Afghanistan's religion in the country's new constitu-

tion." You also said that you were willing to discuss everything with the opposition. If the opposition exerts pressure to secure further concessions with regard to Islamization or even for an Islamic state, do you believe that the PDPA will be able to withstand such pressure within the Afghan people's Grand Assembly?

[Najibullah] We will express the Afghan workers' aspirations not only within the Grand Assembly but in all the other local assemblies too. We will reflect the Afghan people's will.

"We Will Not Dictate the Law"

[Naqvi] In another statement you said: "We propose an equal-based dialogue and do not intend to dictate the law from above." What kind of role do you envisage for your party within a national unity government? Will it be in an equal position or will the government work under the PDPA's ruling direction?

[Najibullah] The PDPA will have an active organizational, political, social, economic, and natural [as published] role. The PDPA will have an important role in mobilizing and organizing the broad range of political forces in our society.

[Naqvi] You have not answered my question. Will it adopt an egalitarian stance in the distribution of power or will it remain in charge?

[Najibullah] If the party performs a significant role in the areas I have just indicated, you can well imagine its role in the future order.

[Naqvi] It is a well known fact that when too many concessions are made party cadres become restless. If an attempt is made to appease the cadres the opposition could fail to respond to the appeal. Do you accept the fact that you must confront this dilemma? How do you propose to surmount it?

[Najibullah] The PDPA's political maturity enables us to take such steps. The creative thinking of party cadres and members is an advantage for us. I believe they will do well to recognize the people with whom it is in their interests to work with in this phase of the democratic national revolution.

[Naqvi] Even if an accord were to be reached between Afghanistan and Pakistan, you would still have to reach an understanding with Iran too. According to the High Commissariat for Refugees there are 1.8 million Afghan refugees in Iran. According to your official figures there are 500,000 refugees in Iran. Is it possible that the Soviet troops will leave Afghanistan before Iran signs the accord?

[Najibullah] Once the accord with Pakistan has been reached, the Iranian authorities will be put to the test over the issue of peace. This will reveal whether or not the Iranian authorities will support the solution of the problems in this region.

AFP: 'Rebels' Capture Government Delegation

BK031316 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 8 (Afp) — Moslem rebels in Afghanistan's Parvan Province have captured a 14-member government delegation sent to appeal for the guerrillas to lay down their arms, Western diplomats said here Tuesday. They said the delegation from the government's National Reconciliation Committee was led by Deputy Communications Minister Khalilullah Kohistani. He was sent last week to negotiate peace with guerrillas in his home town Kuhestan, northwest of Kabul, following Afghan leader Najibullah's January 15 declaration of a 60-day cease-fire and offer to form a coalition government with the rebels.

The diplomats said a local rebel commander, Farid, had captured the officials and sent Mr Kohistani back to Kabul with a message that "no arrangement could be made with the regime until the Soviets leave Afghanistan."

Meanwhile the official Soviet news agency TASS reported in Mocow that a senior Afghan official had been kidnapped and killed in eastern Afghanistan. TASS named the official only as Mr Inayatulla, who was identified as head of the local government in Rudat District of Nangarhar Province and a member of the National Reconciliation Committee.

Radio Kabul said Friday that another official, the head of a reconciliation committee in the northern Konduz Province, had been murdered. The official, Abdul Ahad Arzbegi, was reportedly shot dead late Thursday in the midst of negotiations with mujahidin guerrillas. The Moslem rebels have rejected the government peace proposals as "a trap" to consolidate the Soviet-backed regime's hold on power.

Meanwhile, diplomats said that with the apparent collapse of the cease-fire, the government had tightened security in Kabul to a level not seen since mid-1986. They said security forces were conducting round-the-clock searches of vehicles and pedestrians, and Soviet troops were manning security checkpoints at major intersections. The new measures follow the killing in Kabul on January 15 of five Soviets and two Afghan officials, who diplomats said had their throats cut, apparently by rebels.

An Interior Ministry source said there had been at least six unexplained killings of police and officials of the Afghan secret service, Khad, in the past two weeks. The sources quoted an unnamed Afghan minister as telling East European diplomats to avoid crowds after four p.m. in view of the "deteriorating security" in the capital.

"The cease-fire to all intensive purposes is over in Kabul," the diplomats said, adding that a series of rocket attacks and explosions in Kabul last week left more than a dozen people dead. The death toll in a car bomb explosion outside the Indian Embassy in Kabul on Sunday, meanwhile, has gone up to seven, the diplomats said. They said Moslem guerrillas in Kabul were now using close range rockets and mortars almost daily, hitting their targets with precision despite surveillance by helicopters over the city.

Since the government cease-fire was announced, fighting has continued across the country, diplomats said. The guerrillas

reportedly shot down three helicopters at Surkh Parsa, in Parvan Province, and another three in Nangarhar Province last week.

Heavy fighting also was reported in Jabal os Saraj and Charikar Districts, close to the northeastern Panjsher Valley. Diplomats said followers of rebel commander Ahmad Shah Masud, had killed a Soviet colonel and two soldiers in an attack on their post at Dashte Parvan.

Some 15 Soviet soldiers died as guerrillas destroyed three armoured vehicles in Charikar, they said, adding that the past two weeks of fighting had so far claimed the lives of 100 Afghan and 40 Soviet troops.

Guerrillas have also captured two Soviet officials and a pilot of a downed Soviet jet. Negotiations for their release in exchange of 200 jailed guerrillas have so far failed, the diplomats said without elaborating.

In another incident, Afghan sources told diplomats that a plane crashed near Sarowbi, killing 16 to 20 passengers. The plane hit Sarowbi dam on January 20, damaging the power station and reducing electricity supplies to Kabul, they said. Fighting was also reportedly heavy in Herat, Ghazni, and Paktia Provinces.

Mujahidin Kill 100 Soviet-Kabul Troops in Paktia
BK030829 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the freedom fighters are reported to have killed 100 Soviet-Kabul troops in an operation in Paktia Province recently.

One hundred Soviet-Kabul troops and large quantity of military hardware were also captured by the freedom fighters. Four tanks and some armored vehicles of the Soviet-Kabul forces were also damaged in the encounters.

Attack Qandahar Airport 2 Feb
BK020239 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin reportedly attacked the Qandahar airport recently and destroyed four military helicopters, besides killing many Soviet-Kabul troops. Another report says the mujahidin also attacked and destroyed a Soviet-Kabul security post in Qandahar and inflicted heavy losses on the Afghan regime troops.

Down Plan in Herat Proviace 31 Jan
BK310624 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Excerpt] In Afghanistan, mujahidin shot down a Kabul plane in Herat Province. They also seized 106 AK rifles and a large number of arms and ammunition from there. [passage omitted]

Gandhi Talks With Visiting Finnish President

BK031629 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Wide-ranging discussions were held between the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and President of Finland Mr Mauno Koivisto, in New Delhi today covering bilateral, regional, and international issues. During their discussions lasting over 75 minutes, the focus was on East-West relations. Mr Koivisto emphasized the need to convene a conference on security in Europe and the need for follow-up action on it. The international economic situation also figured at their talks. The two leaders spoke in favor of disarmament and underlined the necessity to link it with development.

The ministerial level delegations of the two countries met separately. The two sides agreed that India-Finland joint commission will meet soon.

Helsinki Reports on Talks

LD032339 Helsinki International Service in Finnish
1600 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] President Mauno Koivisto, who is on a state visit to India, today held official political talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Koivisto and his party flew this morning to the Indian capital, New Delhi, having previously inspected the Taj Mahal mausoleum in Agra, a couple of hundred kilometers to the south of the capital. From New Delhi, Hannu Reime now reports:

[Reime] As expected, nothing surprising appeared in the talks between President Koivisto and Prime Minister Gandhi. The hour-long talks covered many international questions, but especially arms reduction. According to the Finns, Finland and India agree on most issues, and the talks were described as a lively exchange of views. While the president and the prime minister were holding their private talks, the ministers in the Finnish delegation were talking to their Indian counterparts. Economic and trade relation issues between Finland and India were raised. The Finns declared that they, too, are ready to help India increase its exports to Finland. Finnish-Indian trade has been extremely imbalanced for years. Finland exports to India goods whose value has annually been about six times greater than that of imports from India. The trade balance is of course, a question of principle.

(?The ministers also) discussed international issues. In these, as in the talks between Koivisto and Gandhi, the Indians (?expressed) their view of the saber-rattling in recent days on the border between India and Pakistan, and the bilateral talks to calm the situation. The Indian foreign minister believes that a result may be achieved in the talks as early as tomorrow.

The state visit is concluding with a formal banquet, given by Indian President Zail Singh in honor of the Finnish president. In his ceremonial speech, President Koivisto expressed his respect for the memory of Indira Gandhi, murdered 2 years ago, and the leading part played by India among the developing countries, wherever the worldwide problems of development and North-South relations are discussed.

Speaking of arms reduction Koivisto said that Finland regards the short-term goal as a complete and verified ban on nuclear testing, a formulation which is Finland's present official position on this central question of great-power politics. This concerns India insofar as India is included in the five-continent initiative to end nuclear testing, along with Sweden, Greece, Tanzania, Mexico, and Argentina. Finland has announced that it is prepared to give its technical expertise in monitoring the test ban if such a ban is achieved.

President Hosts Honorary Banquet

BK040322 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] India and Finland have called for an immediate halt to the nuclear arms race as a first step toward complete disarmament. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Finnish president, Mr Mauno Koivisto, in New Delhi yesterday President Giani Zail Singh appealed to world leaders to display wisdom and courage in safeguarding humanity against the danger of nuclear weapons. Referring to the 6-nation peace initiative, he hoped that 1987 will provide an opportunity to the superpowers to agree on disarmament measures to enable the promise of Reykjavik to become a reality.

In his reply, President Koivisto observed that the work of the Group of Six countries underscores the importance attached to curbing the nuclear menace. He said Finland is also working for the establishment of a Nordic nuclear weapon free zone.

Both the leaders also expressed the desire to strengthen and consolidate bilateral ties. They agreed that much can be done to avail of the opportunity that exists in science and technology through mutual cooperation.

'Progress' Made at Border Talks With Pakistan

BK031557 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Progress has been made at the official-level talks between India and Pakistan in New Delhi by working out measures to defuse tension. Briefing newsmen, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the talks between the two delegations will continue tonight and tomorrow. The two sides met first meet in the morning and again in the afternoon for about 4 hours. In the evening, the leader of the Pakistani delegation, Mr Abdus Sattar, called on the external affairs minsiter, Mr N.D. Tiwari. They were together for about 45 minutes. The leader of the Indian delegation, Mr Gonsalves, and ambassadors of the two countries, Mr S.K. Singh and Mr Humayun Khan, were present.

AFP: 'Sources' Expect Accord Soon

BK040043 Hong Kong AFP in English 0437 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 4 (AFP) — India and Pakistan were expected to sign an agreement to defuse border tensions after a fifth consecutive day of talks here Wednesday, sources on both sides said. The accord should be signed after the two delegations

concluded a final round of talks to settle a few pending "details", an Indian External Affairs Ministry source said. "We have reached a stage where only one or two points are left to be worked out. We hope to solve it today," Pakistan's foreign secretary and delegation head Abdus Sattar told *Agence France-Presse*.

The talks were initially only for Saturday and Sunday, but they have been extended three times in a bid to break the deadlock with an estimated 500,000 troops massed at the borders. A sticking point was reportedly India's reluctance to limit plans to hold multi-corps manoeuvres on an unprecedented scale in Rajasthan, which borders Pakistan.

India moved troops to the border areas nearly two weeks ago after accusing Pakistan of not moving back its troops after winter exercises in the area. India has said Pakistan has evacuated people from its Kashmir border area while thousands of people living on the Indian side have reportedly fled to safer zones.

Sikh Priests Want Akali Dal Factions Dissolved

BK042346 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Excerpts] In Punjab, the five Sikh head priests have directed dissolution of all the Akali Dal factions. Chiefs of various Akali Dal factions have also been asked to tender their resignations by tomorrow evening. The decision was taken by the head priests at a meeting in Amritsar yesterday. A statement issued later said that the party must be reorganized in a few days after submission of the resignations. [passage omitted]

The breakaway group of the Akali Dal, led by Mr Prakash Singh Badal, has announced that the party would abide by any directive issued by the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] chief.

Meanwhile, two persons were shot dead and one injured in their incidents of terrorist activities last evening in the state. Two shop keepers were shot dead by some suspected terrorists in two villages in Gurdaspur and Rupar Districts. Another shop keeper was seriously injured when some gunmen fired at him in Rupar last evening.

Barnala Calls 'Emergency' Meeting

BK040902 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] The president of the ruling Akali Dal, Mr Barnala, has summoned an emergency meeting of the working committee and district presidents of the party in Chandigarh this afternoon to consider the directive of the five Sikh head priests for dissolution of all Akali Dal factions. The head priests who met in Amritsar yesterday also asked the chiefs of various Akali Dal factions to resign. A statement issued later said that the party would be reorganized in a few days after submission of the resignations.

Meanwhile, one farmer was shot dead by two scooter-borne terrorists in a village near Goraya in Jullundur District this morning. In another incident, the Patiala police nabbed four terrorists after an encounter in Samana this morning. The police have recovered some arms and one car which was stolen from Chandigarh last week.

Curfew has been relaxed in Phagwara town for 12 hours from 0600 this morning. Curfew was clamped on Monday [2 February] following the killing of a priest.

GNLF 'To Suspend Agitation' for 2 Months

BK031245 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] The Gurkha National Liberation Front [GNLF] has decided to suspend its agitation for Gurkhaland from tomorrow. In a statement in New Delhi today, the GNLF president, Mr Subash Ghisingh, said that this is being done in response to the anxiety shown by the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, to create a better atmosphere for a negotiated settlement of the GNLF demands. The suspension of agitation will be for a period of 2 months initially. Mr Ghisingh said they will remain completely nonviolent so as to avoid any situation which may lead to conflict. At a meeting with Mr Buta Singh today, it was agreed that Mr Ghisingh will formally (?submit) his proposal regarding citizenship [for Nepali immigrants] in greater detail and forward the same to the Home Ministry.

Further Details

BK031635 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Excerpts] The Gurkha National Liberation Front has decided to suspend its agitation for Gurkhaland from tomorrow, initialiy for 2 months. This was announced in a statement in New Delhi today by the GNLF president, Mr Subash Ghisingh, after a meeting with the home minister, Mr Buta Singh. [passage omitted] He said at his meeting with the home minister, he reaffirmed their resolve a find a solution to various issues raised by the GNLF in a peaceful and democratic manner. He hoped that the West Bengal government will take immediate steps to consolidate peace. Mr Ghisingh said they will remain completely nonviolent to avoid to any situation which may lead to conflict. The statement said that Mr Ghisingh proposed that a separate Indian Gurkha regiment be formed and that the depots for recruiting Gurkhas from Nepal be shifted from India to Nepal to draw a clear distinction between Indian Gurkha and agreement Gurkha troops [as heard].

Mr Subash Ghisingh today met the home secretary, Mr Somiah, and later Mr Buta Singh. The [Nepalese immigrants] citizenship question was discussed and it was agreed that Mr Ghisingh would formulate his proposal regarding citizenship in greater detail and forward the same to the Home Ministry.

An official press release issued in New Delhi said that the question of recruitment of Gurkhas to the Gurkahs regiment raised by Mr Ghisingh requires further examination. During the meeting, Mr Buta Singh emphasized that under the Constitution all sections of the people are equal irrespective of their creed, language, or religion. He said people can have their aspirations fulfilled through nonviolence and constitutional methods.

Reacting to the GNLF decision to suspend its agitation, the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, said in Calcutta that an atmosphere should be created so that the center, all political parties, and the GNLF can sit together for a meaningful dialogue.

He said this is necessary for maintaining the cordial relationship between the Nepalese-speaking and non-Nepali-speaking people and for the unity and integrity of the country.

1,500 Bangladesh Refugees Enter Tripura
BK031627 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] About 1,500 refugees from Bangladesh crossed over to Tripura during the last 2 days. The state chief secretary, Mr N. P. Nawami, told the All India Radio Agartala correspondent this evening that at present there are about 35,000 refugees in Tripura. Because of the recent influx, the state government is considering setting up of another refugee camp.

President on ICO Summit, Afghanistan, Issues

JN020854 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 25 Jan 87 pp 16-18

[Interview with Pakistani President Mohammed Ziaul Haq by Yahya Hamzah in Islamabad — date not given]

[Text] [Hamzah] Mr President, the Muslim world is now facing many challenges. There are many problems, issues, and hot crises preoccupying the Muslim nation. Consequently, there are many questions we would like to ask your excellency during this meeting, particularly since it is taking place on the eve of the fifth Islamic summit in Kuwait. The first question I would like to ask you, Mr President, is: What do you expect the Islamic summit to achieve?

[President Ziaul Haq] As a Muslim I am optimistic that the summit will succeed. Islam shines with its bright principles. As long as one has faith in God, one must be optimistic. Therefore, I hope that the summit will be successful, and my people who believe in God hope so too. Therefore, we expect the summit to be very successful, for two main reasons:

First: The summit is being held in Kuwait under the chairmanship of a wise leader, my brother the amir of Kuwait, who is considered by the entire Muslim world to be a wise, aware, and intelligent leader and a statesman who resorts to reason. We hope that under his chairmanship and supervision the summit will be very successful.

Second: The conference has an important role that is related to issues that affect destiny and the future. Therefore, its importance is decisive.

My advice to friends and to the press is that the summit should be judged by the way it is held and run, and by the way it responds to the Muslim world's essential demands. It is not necessary to judge the summit on the basis of immediate results it achieves and on the speed with which it achieves them. It is not possible to solve difficult and complex problems in one summit or even two summits.

An example is the Gulf war which has been going on for 7 years. One cannot say that the Islamic summit in Kuwait can find a speedy solution to the war overnight. It would be impractical and unfair to say this. What is important is the seriousness of the topics discussed.

Let us take another example: the Palestinian question, the most important issue, and what happened with the Amman agreement, the issue of Jerusalem, and what is taking place in the occupied territory under the yoke of occupation and Israel's arbitrary policy, and so on. Therefore, the issue is not if the summit can liberate Jerusalem tomorrow, because then we would be charging the summit with more than it could bear.

Take the question of Afghanistan; it is also a complex issue that has continued for 7 years.

What is important is that Muslims should take a united stand. If they should emerge from the summit united then I will believe the summit is successful. What is important is the unity of views. That is the criterion by which I judge the summit's success.

I participated in the two previous Islamic summits in Al-Ta'if and Casablanca. I have a great belief that the summit will achieve a measure of success, particularly since it is being chaired by my friend Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad. I had hoped that Iran would attend the summit, and that the others would also attend it, in view of the summit's great importance.

We have a number of political, economic, and cultural issues to discuss. These issues are of importance to the Muslim world, and the leaders will discuss them intensively. They discussed them in the past. The fourth Islamic summit set up three committees. The first was for science and technology and I am its chairman. The second is the Economic Affairs Committee and it is chaired by Turkish President Kenan Evrin. The third is the Cultural Affairs Committee. These three committees deal with the various issues under their jurisdiction. They will refer their reports to the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] Secretariat to correct any possible mistakes. The reports will then be referred to the summit, which will discuss them and make the appropriate decisions so that they can be implemented in the future.

[Hamzah] What were the results of Pakistan's efforts to persuade Iran to attend the summit?

[Ziaul Haq] As for Iran, we believe that Pakistan has made great efforts to persuade it to attend the summit. As part of these efforts, the Pakistani foreign minister visited both Iran and Saudi Arabia.

[Hamzah] What were the results of the visit to Iran?

[Ziaul Haq] I have not yet met with the foreign minister. However, I have seen the reports. In my view the efforts were successful in themselves, although they did not achieve the desired result.

I and Pakistan have made endeavors for two reasons: First, Pakistan believes it is capable of helping to find solutions; second, Pakistan is a member of the Muslim community and because of our proximity to Iran we sought to persuade the Iranians. The foreign minister visited Tehran and Saudi Arabia. Such visits reflect Pakistan's endeavors as a neighbor of Iran and as an ICO member. However, regrettably, our intensive efforts were not successful in persuading the Iranian officials to attend the summit.

[Hamzah] Why is Iran not convinced of attending?

[Ziaul Haq] Regrettably, it must be said that Iran has a sensitive, critical stand on the summit. We repeatedly tried to convince the Iranian officials but, regrettably, to no avail until now.

[Hamzah] Is this due to the Iraq-Iran war and its developments?

[Ziaul Haq] Undoubtedly, this subject will be discussed by the summit conference. However, there is an improtant point on which Pakistan attempted to concentrate to convince Iran to attend. Pakistan said that if Iran does not attend it will not be

able to express its viewpoint. We are actually trying to find a balance in viewpoints on this issue. However, there is a difference between the concerned party being present, and the party being absent allowing others to defend and justify its viewpoint. Iraq will attend the conference and will be able to freely express its viewpoint. At the same time, the participants in the conference will — out of the desire to achieve unity — endeavor to find a solution to this tragic war. However, we do not know if we will be able to arrive at a tangible result.

[Hamzah] Is this Iranian rejection of attending due to the fact that the summit is being convened in Kuwait?

[Ziaul Haq] Actually, we do not know exactly why. We tried all available means and all avenues and we sent a delegation. We did the same thing at the Casablanca Islamic summit in 1984. We sent messages and waited but Iran did not attend. Perhaps it is because our friends in Iran regard the summit as a mere delusion. Perhaps it is something else. We do not know.

[Hamzah] Do you still hope that Iran will attend the summit?

[Ziaul Haq] We exerted extensive efforts but failed. However, I still hope and express my appeal through the press. We hope we will convince them.

[Hamzah] Mr President, you are an effective, principal member of the Islamic Good Offices Committee entrusted with the task of ending the Iraq-Iran war. What results have you achieved and why did the committee's efforts falter?

[Ziaul Haq] If we look at the issue from an objective point of view, we have not achieved anything. However, if we look at it within a general framework and the hopes that we pin on the committee's efforts, we will find that the Islamic Good Offices Committee exerted extensive efforts which affirm the Islamic world's desire for peace. The committee has been doing its utmost for the past 6 years. The committee did its best but did not achieve a solution.

[Hamzah] Was that because of the Iranian or Iraqi side?

[Ziaul Haq] The committee is completely neutral and has absolutely no bias. The proof is that while Iran accuses the committee of being biased toward Iraq, Iraq says the opposite. This confirms its neutrality.

[Hamzah] What solution do you envisage for this regrettable war? Will the committee continue its efforts?

[Ziaul Haq] In any case, you need two hands to clap because you cannot clap with one hand. There can be no solution if the two sides do not express a political desire. However, there will always be hope.

[Hamzah] But Iraq has always expressed a willingness for peace?

[Ziaul Haq] Yes, in fact we do appreciate Iraq's stands and initiatives on the Good Offices Committee's efforts. It expressed complete willingness for peace and this must be recognized. On the other hand, Iran has had good stands. However, they say that they have their own reasons and justifications and submit viewpoints which Iraq rejects.

[Hamzah] Do you have a special initiative to end the war?

[Ziaul Haq] Pakistan has no special initiative on the Iraq-Iran war. It has exhausted all it has and currently has no initiative.

[Hamzah] But Pakistan has good relations with both sides and can contribute to halting this war and achieving peace.

[Ziaul Haq] Pakistan has good relations with Iraq and relations of friendship and neighborly relations with Iran. Regrettably, our efforts in this regard have not succeeded.

[Hamzah] Mr President, in the beginning you said that you are optimistic. However, your statement on the Gulf war is pessimistic. Why?

[Ziaul Haq] I am optimistic by nature. However, I feel frustrated because I see no hope. Cooperation must take place between the two parties to the war. Regardless of the other sides' efforts, a solution cannot be achieved without the desire of the two parties concerned.

[Hamzah] Regarding the Islamic Committee for Technology and Sciences stemming from the Islamic summit conference you chair, what is your evaluation of the results of its activities, particularly in light of your announcement of Pakistan's readiness to provide the Islamic states with Pakistan's experience in the field of using the atom for peaceful purposes?

[Ziaul Haq] Its results are very encouraging and constitute an important basis. In other words, they give the alternative and the means to complete what we have planned. We have drawn up physiological studies, scientific projects, and physical reports. Therefore, we have prepared technological projects which can be implemented in all scientific fields and in all states. We tried not only to study the establishment of scientific centers but also to take technological centers into consideration, which we have not yet included in our plan. Thus, we have determined the various states who have an interest in this field. We have proposed the establishment of something like a club for scientific and technological researches. This concept paves the way for promoting scientific knowledge. In this regard, we have determined the scientific projects in several states, and proposed a formula for coordination and cooperation among those centers and states which could not establish such centers or did not try to establish them. However, all of these states should now focus on this field of cooperation to promote scientific fields.

We have also drawn up the required budget for these projects, and proposed the establishment of a kind of union among these institutions. This is in addition to the fact that all of the Islamic institutions and sides are exerting efforts to establish an Islamic committee for culture and cultural institutions, such as the Islamic Monetary Fund and the Islamic League. This is the hot, structural point — if we can say so — in hastening the establishment of these institutions. We have drawn up a long-term plan. We will submit this comprehensive plan to the Kuwait summit for study and aproval with the objective of enabling the Islamic

world to mobilize its serious power for scientific progress through its participation in this field.

[Hamzah] What about the Pakistani nuclear reactor and the results you have achieved in this field?

[Ziaul Haq] Pakistan is in need of this technology within the framework of peace and medical, agricultural, and chemical research. We have achieved great scientific progress in using all of these sciences. We seek cooperation with all the states desiring to cooperate with us in the field of producing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

[Hamzah] Regarding the military level, have you not achieved results on the level of using the atom for defensive purposes?

[Ziaul Haq] We do not use this energy in the military field, and even if we were able to produce it, we have no intention of using nuclear energy for military purposes. We do not have the resources or the capabilities to achieve this. We use it only for peaceful purposes.

[Hamzah] But Israel has nuclear weapons and atomic bombs, and we wish Pakistan could at least achieve a balance in this field on the Islamic nation's level. The possession of nuclear weapons is not only a hostile action; sometimes it is a deterrent nuclear weapon that can prevent the other side from using its nuclear weapons.

[Ziaul Haq] This is like the balance between the two superpowers, and also like their mutual fears. We can establish this if we insist on doing so. However, Pakistan has no desire or capability to do so.

[Hamzah] Mr President, do you believe that the Israeli threat is only directed against the Palestinians and the Arabs, or is it also directed against the entire Muslim nation?

[Ziaul Haq] I always believe it is necessary to say that the Arab and Muslim countries are one. The Muslim world is vast. I believe the Israeli threat is directed at everyone. I view the Palestinian question from the perspective of the Muslim world which is the same as the Arab world's perspective because there is no conflict between the two perspectives.

[Hamzah] With regard to the Israeli threat, Israel has bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor. There have been veiled threats that Israel is capable of bombing the Pakistani nuclear reactor since it constitutes a strategic nuclear factor that strengthens the Muslim force. Do you believe that such a threat exists?

[Ziaul Haq] Of course. Nothing is impossible. However, it is up to Pakistan to defend its nuclear reactor. If it can do so then the reactor is safe, and if it cannot fortify its reactor then the Israelis are sucessful. However, be sure that Pakistan is fully capable of defending its territory and all of its installations — nuclear or otherwise. Consequently, we believe that no one will try.

[Hamzah] What about the Palestinian question? You have good relations with Yasir 'Arafat. Do you believe the Palestinian cause has recently retreated on the international level?

[Ziaul Haq] Yes, recently one finds that Palestinian dynamism or the Palestinian cause has been retreating. Why? There are many forces that are not willing to resolve the crisis. Furthermore, there are the divisions and differences among the Palestinians. However, I hope that the Palestinian cause, which represents one of the greatest human tragedies where an entire people have been uprooted and made homeless. [sentence as published] As a Muslim who believes in God and in right, I believe that Israel cannot control the Palestinians' homeland and must give the homeland to the Palestinians on their land. I cannot say that everything will end that way because that means that we are very powerful. However, I can say that the Palestinians will have a homeland, and the Muslim countries are giving and should give assistance to the Palestinians. If the will of the Muslim world is united on taking action through the United Nations and by exerting pressure on the two superpowers to find a solution... [sentence as published] What is the solution? We do not know, but we say that an international conference must be convened and it should be attended by all the parties concerned including all the members of the UN Security Council. It is the international conference that will draw up a solution. It is up to the Palestinians themselves to decide whether they want another homeland, independence on the West Bank, or a link with Egypt or Jordan. Let the international conference decide. However, the Palestinians must have a homeland. Otherwise, there cannot be a stable peace in the Middle East.

[Hamzah] What can the Islamic summit do for Palestine, Mr President?

[Ziaul Haq] The conference can draw up the full details for an assistance plan. If the PLO should ask for assistance I would be very glad to extend such assistance. However, as long as most of the Palestinians are living outside their homeland, the sphere of their movement and their situation should pivot on finding a political, and not a military, solution — unless, (of course), all of the Muslims decide to wage war and that is impossible. Therefore, the best situation for a solution is now.

At the Fes summit, King Fahd proposed a very positive plan. Now, in the United States there is a president who is facing some difficulties, but he is the man who is dedicated to finding a solution to the Palestinian question, and such an opportunity should not be missed. It is sufficient for the international conference to throw its weight behind solving this problem, and to give aid and assistance to the Palestinians in their camps so that they can live and endure. They must also be given political aid.

[Hamzah] Mr President, as it is known, there is great cooperation between Pakistan and Kuwait. We hope this cooperation will be expanded. How do you assess this cooperation?

[Ziaul Haq] Yes. We are pleased with this cooperation between us and Kuwait in economic and political areas as well as on the Afghan issue and the assistance to the refugees. I would like to refer to the gas project in Baluchistan which was discovered with the help of his highness the Kuwaiti amir. There are several other initiatives by the Kuwaiti amir to extend assistance to us. We hope that these relations will continue and grow between our countries in the future in the economic, cultural, scientific, and trade areas.

[Hamzah] What about cooperation with other countries in the Gulf?

[Ziaul Haq] We maintain good cooperation with Oman, Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Qatar, and the UAE. Although Pakistan is not a member of the GCC for geographic reasons, we are very close to these countries, and we hope that our cooperation will increase and expand.

[Hamzah] How do you assess the Gulf Cooperation Council?

[Ziaul Haq] I greatly admire and view this unity as a political, economic, and defensive force. This is a great experience and a successful example of regional cooperation.

[Hamzah] Does it deserve to be repeated by other neighboring countries within the framework of regional cooperation?

[Ziaul Haq] Of course. Pakistan is trying, within the framework of the southern group, to establish such a unity among the seven neighboring countries. We are learning much from the GCC and other successful groups in the world.

[Hamzah] Mr President, we have tired you a little bit. Yet, we must ask you some other questions. There are differences among the Arab countries, but you maintain good relations with all the Arab countries. Last week, you met with the Syrian vice president. What was the outcome of the talks?

[Ziaul Haq] We invited Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to make a stopover in Islamabad while he was en route to the PRC. I held good talks with him on a number of issues on bilateral relations as well as on the Kuwait summit conference and the situation in Lebanon. We had identical views on a number of issues, but Syria has special viewpoints on the socialist countries and the Soviet Union. We accept such viewpoints. I believe that the Arabs will not be Arabs unless they have such variations.

[Hamzah] Unity is very necessary for the Arab world, don't you think?

[Ziaul Haq] Yes.

[Hamzah] Mr President. Let us move to another Islamic issue which is important to the Islamic world in general and to Pakistan in particular; namely, the Afghan issue. What is new about it, especialy following Kabul's Prime Minister Dr Najib's [title as published] cease-fire proposal? I had an opportunity yesterday to meet with many leaders of the Afghan resistance in Peshawar who unanimously rejected the Kabul government proposals. What is your comment, Mr President?

[Ziaul Haq] In this respect, Pakistan has two concepts about this problem. The first is a military one represented by the fact that the USSR is occupying Afghan territory and the Afghan people are feeling the burden of such a military occupation by a superpower. We are extending aid and making endeavors for peace as we are neighbors of the Afghans and we feel that the occupation is rejected and unjustified. The second concept is represented by the outcome reflected on Pakistan itself as a result of this war, a war which directly affects us. Hence, Pakistan is studying a political solution and has nothing to do with a military solution as the Afghan mujahidin are handling this matter. Pakistan has offered a proposal that amounts almost to an initiative to find a political solution based on a cease-fire and withdrawal of Soviet troops. Should this happen, our relations with Afghanistan will be resumed. Added to this is the need for the refugees to return to their homes. Thus, Pakistan is interested in a political solution but the question is: What does the USSR mean by a cease-fire? And what will occur afterward? The issue should be carefully considered. Will Afghanistan be an independent, free country and so on? All these things cannot be neglected or ignored.

Therefore, Pakistan is eager to hold consultations with the Islamic world on this issue, especially with a number of other concerned countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iran. Pakistan deems it necessary to consult with its friends in the Islamic Conference Organization. Thus, the Islamic summit in Kuwait will endeavor to seriously study the Afghan crisis. We hope to formulate a number of concepts to resolve this crisis on a collective and not individual basis.

Thus, the importance of the Afghan issue cannot be ignored at the summit. We will continue to follow up this issue and even hold consultations with other influential countries such as the United States and a number of other countries. We hope and even have the conviction that Afghanistan, which was once an independent, free, and nonaligned country, will return to what it was. Therefore, what does the cease-fire alone mean? If the cease-fire stems from sincerity, why is it not directly linked to the withdrawal of the Soviet troops? If it had been we would have agreed. However, simply announcing a cease-fire is unacceptable in principle. The Afghan resistance was correct in this regard. We discussed this when the U.S. secretary of state and others who visited Pakistan. We hope that the wisdom of the Islamic leadership will unify opinions on Afghanistan and enable Pakistan to play a serious, objective role.

[Hamzah] Therefore, do you believe that the first step should be the withdrawal of Soviet forces?

[Ziaul Haq] Of course. First of all we must confirm the credibility and seriousness of the cease-fire initiative which must coincide with practical steps on the ground. Let us assume that a cease-fire was actually achieved but the Soviets did not completely withdraw, what would be the result? The initiative has to be accompanied by practical steps. We must have firm evidence of the credibility of this Soviet initiative.

[Hamzah] To what extent do you see Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev differing from previous Soviet leaders?

[Ziaul Haq] The essential difference is that Gorbachev has a personality that is rich with experience and he possesses scientific and technical capabilities which enable him to make full use of the media. He practices this game in accordance with the best relevant rules. He is active and dynamic and is in constant motion. He differs from his predecessors by not adopting the traditional Soviet course. Thus, the potential and capabilities of this man must be carefully examined.

[Hamzah] How were relations between Pakistan and the Soviets before the Afghan crisis?

[Ziaul Haq] They were normal relations, not excellent but not cool. We had projects entirely financed by the Soviets. Our relations were based on trade exchange and economic issues. However, we did not have strong military relations. The two countries had good bilateral relations and they were not new. Bilateral relations continued even during the Afghan crisis. However, there is some change in the relations which are somewhat cool because of the Afghan crisis. The Soviets came out with the initiative saying: Let us improve our relations without the considerations related to Afghanistan. This change implies new stands and differing circumstances related to bilateral relations. For our part, we are willing to promote these relations, especially since the USSR is a superpower. Thus, Pakistan is willing to have this mutual cooperation, especially in the trade and economic fields.

[Hamzah] What about the Afghan issue at the Reykjavik summit?

[Ziaul Haq] In Reykjavik, Gorbachev stated his country's stand on a solution to the Afghan crisis. He proposed the broad lines for the establishment of a neutral Afghanistan and how to, in his opinion, preserve stability in it, as well as the best solutions for the crisis.

[Hamzah] In your opinion, was there any connection between the Afghan issue and the Gulf war at the Reykjavik summit or on the level of detente or conflict between the United States and the USSR?

[Ziaul Haq] The Afghan issue will be settled. It might not be settled separately, but it will be settled without any connection to the Iraq-Iran war. The Iraq-Iran war does not affect the Afghan issue. I am convinced that Afghanistan cannot be subjugated to any foreign power. It has never been subjugated to any foreign occupation. Neither the Mongols, nor the Turks, nor the Soviets could continue their subjugation of Afghanistan. I am certain that the Afghan mujahidin's sacrifices will not be in vain. These sacrifices have a price. Therefore, the USSR will withdraw one day, and Afghanistan will inevitably restore its freedom.

[Hmzah] When?

[Ziaul Haq] Maybe in 1987, in the next year, or the year after, but it will be settled because this is the only way to settle the crisis.

[Hamzah] You have said that unity is necessary for the Arab and Islamic worlds and for the Palestinian resistance. However, regarding the Afghan resistance there are seven major parties, at least, and seven leaderships. Did you not exert any efforts to unify them to facilitate support for the Afghan mujahidin?

[Ziaul Haq] We tried this several times. There are seven major parties each of which has its own field. There are also several organizations revolving around these parties. As long as all of these parties have a common objective, it would be better to unify them under one political leadership. Because I live and understand the issue, I have tried this, but the issue is difficult despite the fact that the seven parties are unanimous on a political solution. I do not see any use in wasting time on this issue as long as they have one common objective.

[Hamzah] The Palestinian resistance factions suffer from the same problem. Do you have a similar viewpoint on this issue?

[Ziaul Haq] Yes. Although the PLO is the mother organization of all the Palestinian factions, it would have achieved several successes on the road to liberating Palestine had it succeeded in unifying its factions. However, we must take into consideration that there are basic differences between the Palestinian resistance and the Afghan resistance. The majority of the Palestinians live outside Palestine, but the Afghan resistance springs from inside.

[Hamzah] Mr President, can we have a quick look at the current relations between you and India, particularly in light of military concentrations on the borders?

[Ziaul Haq] We are very optimistic because we believe that the two states, Pakistan and India, should live peacefully as two neighboring states. This is why Pakistan has disposed of past effects for the sake of reaching peaceful means to promote relations. However, we did not receive the aspired response from India. India has difficulties: dissensions and rebellions inside the country, some Russian influence, and the drawing up of a future plan for such a large country in addition to its feeling the danger of a neighboring state, Pakistan... etc. Despite all this we hope that our relations will be promoted further. However, the fearful India has always concentrated its forces on borders. Nevertheless, we hope that this will be a temporary situation. We have formed a committee to study the differences. We seek to promote an economic and trade exchange between us, and to further promote ties.

[Hamzah] What about the Kashmir question?

[Ziaul Haq] A solution must be found to the Kashmir question. Pakistan is not prepared to give up Kasmir but it is willing to wait and be patient in order to have good, practical relations with India on the basis of agreement, and after creating a spirit of trust and understanding between the two countries. Then, the Kashmir question will be on the road to a solution.

[Hamzah] Frankly, Mr President, what is the difference between Rajiv Gandhi and Indira Gandhi?

President Ziaul Haq laughs heartily and then says:

[Ziaul Haq] Let me say frankly that it is difficult to criticize a political leader who has departed from this world. Let us leave it at that.

[Hamzah] Leave it to history?

[Ziaul Haq] Yes, to history. However, we find that Rajiv's leadership is positive and wise. He is a cautious leader. His policy towards Bangladesh and other countries appears to be sound —

we can even say it is good, and that his political conduct is better than his mother's. That makes us hope for the better.

[Hamzah] Mr President, with the frankness that has characterized this meeting, how do you assess the relations between the government and opposition parties in Pakistan?

[Ziaul Haq] Relations are not good. The basis of such relations is not the government; it is the realities and the people. We had a military rule and we ended it, not because it was not good but because the people wanted to change it. We had two options. I, we — I and my friends — discussed how to begin to establish a democratic system in Pakistan. Accordingly, we decided that military rule in Pakistan would not last long. We had to study the political factors. We found that we have numerous political parties and that these parties did not achieve anything for the country. Therefore, we decided to leave the political parties alone, because if we choose to organize the political parties it will take 5 years. In any case, what is the objective of democracy? It is the people's participation, and as long as the people are participating in government then that is sufficient. We do not have to apply one democratic system. There is the U.S. system, the British system, and the French system. Every state has to derive its own democratic system that best suits it. The goal of a democratic system is to have a democracy of the people and a government of the majority, and that is endorsed by the democracies of the whole world. Therefore, we viewed the situation in our country, and we rejected political parties. We decided to have elections on an individual basis. Sixty-three percent of the Pakistani people voted, and that is a high ratio, even when compared with the percentage of voting in Western democracies.

In the latest U.S. presidential elections only 44 percent of the electorate cast their votes. In the British elections 50 percent of the electorate cast their votes. In India more than 48 percent of the electorate voted. In Pakistan, 63 percent of the electorate voted in the parliamentaary (the National Assembly) elections, and 67 percent voted in the presidential elections. The political parties were saying to the people: Do not go to the ballot box. The government said: Come to the ballot box and elect your representatives. Consequently, the political parties are not represented in the government. In other words, the Pakistani people have rejected the call of the political parties, and have chosen the other option and elected their representatives.

Thus, we have members of Parliament elected by the people on an individual basis. The opposition parties meanwhile remained outside this framework and missed the boat. They also failed to catch up with the bandwagon of democracy. They wnat this bandwagon to go backward but this is impossible. They will have to wait until 1990 for their turn. The opposition parties want to take power but they want it to be presented to them on a silver platter. To all this I say that the government enjoys total strength, it is democratic and elected by the people of Pakistan. The government feels that the demands of the opposition parties are unjust and unacceptable. The opposition must wait until 1990 to participate again.

[Hamzah] Do some of the opposition parties receive outside assistance from other countries?

[Ziaul Haq] We do not have any tangible evidence. However, signs indicate this is true for some parties.

[Hamzah] Does the assistance for the parties come from the East or West?
[Ziaul Haq] From both sides.

[Hamzah] Do some Arab countries extend such assistance?

[Ziaul Haq] Perhaps a certain country may have provided some assistance. However, we can handle this. At any rate, we can deal with an Arab country or countries in this regard. However, it is a different matter when it is an Eastern or Western country. We are currently seeking to enlighten the majority of the people and acquaint them with the facts and therefore thwart any outside interventiion.

[Hamzah] Mr President, what about Karachi and what happened last month?
[Ziaul Haq] Essentially the situation exploded. Karachi is inhabited by seven million people and contains people from various nationalities from Pakistan, Punjab, Peshawar, Iran, and elsewhere. It is the largest industrial and trade market in the country. The difficulty in developing countries is the lack of jobs. You cannot find jobs for everyone. There are also administrative difficulties which aggravate the pressures on people. If these difficulties escalate, people attempt to express their feelings through violence or political activity. This is one of the reasons. There are other reasons. Karachi has become a big center for the drug trade such as hashish, heroin, and others. There were members of the mafia whom the government had to reach and it did. As a result the mafia took revenge by creating difficulties for the government and instigating these incidents. This is the second reason. The third reason is a political one. As a result of negative policies, a number of leftwing parties managed to exploit some of the difficulties such as unemployment and the unavailability of electricity and water. All of this enabled these elements to incite the people's feelings. As a result of these reasons, I must admit — as the president of Pakistan — my responsibility. The government also bears responsibility. Although there were several reasons and causes for the Karachi incidents as I have said, I do not exonerate the government from the responsibility. The government should have identified the problem and provided protection for the people's property and lives. Thus, it was the government's responsibility to some extent. However, the external factors managed to create a very uneasy and difficult situation in Karachi which has not yet been resolved. It is possible that the situation might deteriorate if a political and adminsitrative solution for the problem is not found. Although I am an optimist, I can still say that there is a difficult position which makes me envisage a depressing picture of the situation in Karachi. There is a serious problem in Karachi and the sooner we find a solution for it the better.

[Hamzah] Thank you Mr President. I would like to apologize if some of the questions were embarrassing but we know that you always speak in complete frankness.

[Ziaul Haq] I am very pleased with this interview. I hope we will meet in Kuwait, God willing. I wish *Al-Anba'* every success. Once again, welcome to Pakistan.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Reviews Relations With PRC

BK031217 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] President J. R. Jayewardene has pointed out that China has always maintained its dignity through friendly relations and not by acting as a powerful country. Speaking at a ceremony to commemorate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and China at the SLFI [expansion unknown] in Colombo yesterday, Mr Jayewardene noted that friendly relations between the two countries have existed over 2,000 years. Sri Lanka was one of the first governments to recognize the People's Republic of China in 1949. These friendly relations were further expanded with the signing of the rubber-rice agreement. The (Chingama) Scheme, the Bandaranaike Memorial Hall, and the court complex at Hulftsdorp were gifts from China and symbols of this friendship.

The Chinese ambassador to Sri Lanka, Zhou Shanyan, expressed the hope that the friendly relations between Sri Lanka and China will continue forever. The president of the Sri Lanka-China Friendship Society, Dr A. T. Aryartna, secretary Amardas Gunewardene, and Vice President Professor Nandadasa Khodaguda also addressed the gathering. President Jayewardene also received a book giving details of the economic, commercial, and cultural ties between Sri Lanka and China.

Foreign Minister's National Day Message Cited

BK031049 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1009 GMT 3 Feb 87

["LANKA PUWATH/OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 03 (LANKA PUWATH) — Sri Lanka is facing the problem of separatist terrorism. The government which is committed to the preservation of democracy has taken a number of initiatives to end terrorism and to reach a political settlement. I must here express appreciation of all that our compatriots and friends abroad are doing to bring about a correct understanding of the terrorist problem in Sri Lanka, states Sri Lankan Minister of Foreign Affairs A.C.S. Hameed in his national day message on Feburary 4, 1987.

The minister further states we regained our independence on February 4th, 1948 after over 400 years of colonial bondage. Therefore, it is understandable, after so long a period of colonialism that we should assert ourselves as a sovereign and truly independent nation. From the time of our independence Sri Lanka, while respecting ideological and other differences, evolved an independent foreign policy approach founded on friendship towards all and enmity towards none, which crystallised in a non-aligned foreign policy. This policy has served us well and will continue to be pursued in the future. The year 1977 when the government of His Excellency President J.R. Jayewardene assuemd office can be seen as a watershed in our domestic and foreign policies. The policy of economic liberalisation has led to rapid economic growth in spite of an unfavourable global economic environment. Considerable benefits have flowed from these policies to the people of Sri Lanka. We look forward to further successess as the implementation of these policies begins to yield further results.

Delhi Reports Troop Movements Toward Jaffna

BK030315 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, there are reports of troop movements toward northern Jaffna peninsula. Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that most of these movements noticed by Jaffna residents have either been by sea or by air. It is not immediately known whether the movements are routine or part of the government's stepped-up operations against Tamil militants.

The Sri Lankan president had confirmed reports in a recently published interview that he is planning to step up military action because the government cannot give in when a part of the country is taken over. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] has begun building bunkers and tunnels on major roads close to the Army camps in Jaffna, Point Pedro, Velvettiturai, and Thondamannar. Meanwhile, the first-ever aircraft built by the LTTE crashed immediately after take off at Vaddukkoddai near Jaffna yesterday.

Air Force Bombs Jaffna Arms Factories

BK031631 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] The Sri Lankan Air Force planes today bombed and destroyed two ordnance factories in Jaffna peninsula. They belong to the major Tamil militant group the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. An official spokesman told our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumber, that the factories were completely blasted but there were no civilian casualties. A series of explosions rocked areas in Anaikkoddai and Nirveli where the factories were located. The militant group is said to have been producing large quantities of grenades and mortars at these factories.

Meanwhile, about 50 bus passengers traveling from Colombo to Jaffna are reported to have been forcibly taken away by the Army to form a part of their convoy. These passengers were being security-checked at Vavuniya this morning when Army personnel got into some of the buses and ordered the drivers to proceed along with them. Independent sources told our correspondent that the bus passengers were being used by the Army as a human shield against any attack by Tamil militants. The government spokesman has denied this.

Sources Say Offensive To Be Launched

NC032027 Paris AFP in English 2018 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Colombo, Feb 3 (AFP) — Military aircraft Tuesday bombed and destroyed two ordnance factories producing bombs and other explosives in the northern province of Jaffna for the

main Tamil separatist group, military sources said. [passage omitted] The sources said military aircraft hit the factories on Tuesday completely destroying both. It was not known how many casualties there were.

The LTTE had earlier shown visiting foreign journalists the ordnance depots and photographs of them have appeared in the foreign press, the sources said.

Meanwhile, sources in Jaffna told *Agence France-Presse* Tuesday that there had been reports of large troop movements toward the north from Colombo. The sources cited Tamil militants in Jaffna as saying that the government was about to launch a major offensive in the north following a sweep last week on the eastern headquarters of the LTTE.

A citizen's committee in the eastern town of Batticaloa said that more than 200 people were killed during the fighting, but the government has denied the accusation saying that only five civilians died in crossfire.

LTTE Spokesman Cited on Jaffna Oil Ban

BK030631 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Text] A spokesman of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam has said in Madras that his organization will not participate in any peace talks as long as the Sri Lankan Government's economic sanctions against the Northern Province continue. His statement came in response to the Sri Lankan Government's statement that economic sanctions are in reprisal for the LTTE's establishing a civil administration in the north. He added that the LTTE's civil administration is only an internal arrangement worked out in the past 18 months to extend some services to the people of Jaffna and that it became essential as the government administration deteriorated. He went on to say that the LTTE has indefinitely postponed the estabishment of a secretariat: We have assured the Indian Government that we will not undertake any unilateral decision in the meantime. Therefore, there is no justification for the Sri Lankan Government to continue the oil ban. The oil ban should not be linked with the peace talks.

Meanwhile, the LTTE has pointed out that its leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, now in Jaffna, has been consulting with his regional commanders to reorganize the LTTE on political and military lines. These circles have said that Prabhakaran is very much pained over the seizure of the LTTE's communication equipment in Tamil Nadu, which is the main reason for his decision to return to Jaffna. They also said that he would not return to Madras for some more time.

LANKA PUWATH Reports 'Terrorist' Incidents

BK031007 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0958 GMT 3 Feb 87

["LANKA PUWATH/OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 03 (LANKA PUWATH) — A report from Kankesanthurai, Jaffna District, north Sri Lanka, yesterday states that Kamaldeen Nasheer originally of No 33 Wattegama Road, Ukuwela surrendered to the security forces camp at Kankesanthurai and claimed that he was a long standing member of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) group. He said that he was surrendering because he was convinced that all terrorists groups are fighting only for the sake of terrorism and not for anthing else, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH.

Sambukkulam, Trincomalee District, eastern Sri Lanka, in a confrontation between a security forces patrol and terrorists, one police constable suffered serious injuries. Two terrorists were arrested. The police constable who suffered injury, L. H. Senaratne, later died.

Batticaloa District, Valachchenai, and Kallady, eastern Sri Lanka yesterday, 20 terrorist suspects have been taken in for questioning. They will be released immediatly if cleared after questioning.

January 23d, Agbopura, four hunters who had gone into the jungle to hunt wild animals have not returned yet. They are believed to have been abducted by terrorists.

Musavi Says U.S. Journalist Issue 'Clarified'

LD041138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] In its meeting today the Cabinet approved some of the articles in the draft legal bill concerning import and export regulations. At the end of today's Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Musavi answered questions from one of our colleagues concerning recent U.S. military moves in the region and the reasons for the arrest of a foreign reporter, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Musavi, in view of U.S. military moves in the region, please tell us what is the stance of the Government of the Islamic Republic concerning these moves?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. These recent moves by the United States clearly demonstrate who in the world is following a policy of tension, terrorism, and intimidation. The policy adopted by the United States is, in fact, psychological warfare against Muslims, against the people of Lebanon, hoping to increase the level of tension among Muslims. The United States should know that any kind of insult to Muslims anywhere in the world will not remain unanswered by the world's billion Muslims. The Muslims have the capability to give the necessary answer to any invasion and aggression, and the United States will not reap any benefit from these actions. I think, as it has already been said, due to the weakness which the United States has experienced in its foreign policy, which is because of the issue of weapons [sales] and the issue of McFarlane, the United States tries to make up for its difficulties in Lebanon and tries to export them abroad. We would like to say that this matter will add to the United States' domestic problems, because it will meet with the strong response of the Muslims.

[Unidentified reporter] One of the correspondents who came to Iran has been arrested. Please tell us what was the reason for his arrest and what is the decision of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning him?

[Musavi] This reporter was engaged in certain investigations and collecting intelligence at the fronts. After being questioned, the issue has been clarified and I think he will be expelled from the country during the next 2-3 days. [end recording]

IRNA Says Seib 'Expelled' 4 Feb

LD041356 Tehran IRNA in English 1354 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 4, IRNA — An American journalist arrested on 1st February on charges of espionage was expelled from Iran Wednesday after judicial probe into his case ended, according to an informed Informational Ministry official. The official said that the journalist, Gerald Seib, was permanently banned from returning to Iran.

Seib was among a group of foreign reporters who had been invited to file reports on new Iranian victories over Iraqi troops in the Karbala'-5 operations at the invitation of the War Information Headquarters (WIH).

Seib To Depart Tehran 5 Feb

LD041543 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 4, IRNA — Gerald Seib, an American journalist who was arrested Sunday on "espionage charges" will be leaving Tehran Thursday, an informed source told IRNA Wednesday.

Seib was arrested after he came to Iran with a group of foreign journalists invited by the War Information Hq. to inspect new Iranian victories in the war fronts. An Information Ministry official announced that Seib was expelled Wednesday after judicial probe into his case ended.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Wednesday described Seib's information gathering at the war fronts as "unusual."

The American journalist has been banned from returning to the Islamic Republic.

Lebanon Issue, U.S. Military Response Viewed

LD031343 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1109 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Unattributed political commentary: "Complex Situation in Lebanon After the Recent Hostage Takings"]

[Text] After recent hostage takings in Lebanon, the consequences are assuming bigger dimensions each day. The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, which has accepted responsibility for the hijacking of three American lecturers and a faculty dean who is an Indian national, said in its latest statement that it has taken its hostages out of Beirut. The organization said it took that step following reports of the United States' readiness to attack Islamic forces in Lebanon.

According to these reports, the aircraft carrier *Kennedy* will join another aircraft carrier, *Nimitz*, and the United States has increased the number of marines in the 6th Fleet from 1,900 to 3,800 — or doubled the number. The 6th Fleet is scattered in the Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf, and the Sea of Oman.

The possibility of U.S. military attacks on a number of positions in the Middle East, especially in Lebanon, is raised at a time when it is expected that the U.S. Administration will resort to military action mainly for propaganda purposes following the disgrace resulting from its failure to establish relations with Iran. This probable attack would be like the invasion of Grenada by U.S. forces when Reagan's government tried to cover up the memory of the death of nearly 300 of its marines in Beirut.

Nevertheless, conditions in the region are such that they weaken the possibility of success for the U.S. forces in their probable aggression. Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Giulio Andreotti emphasized after meeting with Reagan in Washington: We have seen in the past with regard to the presence of multinational

forces in Lebanon, that the presence of a vast international [as heard] fleet cannot ensure security. Also, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine threatened in its earlier statement that any military action by the United States against the Muslims in the region, especially in Lebanon, would amount to signing the death warrant of all American hostages who are being kept by that organization.

The probable killing of American hostages in the event of a U.S. attack, or with the participation of the United States allies, is one of the factors which has tied the hands of the U.S. Government in carrying out its threats. Also, the disappearance of Terry Waite, special envoy of Canterbury Cathedral in Britain, has further limited the scope of action. Terry Waite, who had earlier played a role in the release of a number of American hostages in Lebanon, returned to Beirut again about 20 days ago, hoping to free a few other American hostages. However, he himself disappeared 2 weeks ago and there is a strong possibility that he has also been taken hostage. It is said that Terry Waite had been able to establish some contacts with the hostage-takers through a former minister in the Lebanese Cabinet. Two weeks ago he asked his bodyguards, guerrillas of the Druze Progresive Socialist Party led by Walid Junblatt, to leave him alone.

Many diverse views have been expressed concerning Terry Waite. On one hand, Nabih Birri, Lebanon's justice minister, said in Damascus that he has been detained; Abu Iyad, a PLO official, claimed that he continues his activities quite freely. On the other hand, Walid Junblatt, who sees the reputation of his organization which accepted the responsibility for guarding Terry Waite in danger has said he is prepared to be taken hostage in place of Terry Waite.

In any case, alongside this new riddle, the United States is each day preparing the ground for military intervention. The U.S. State Department has called on all U.S. subjects to leave Lebanon and not to return to that country. It has also threatened to take legal action against those who violate this order.

Also, following the kidnapping of at least two German nationals in Beirut over the past 3 weeks, the FRG and Swiss Embassies in West Beirut were closed. The gradual departure of Western nations from West Beirut, as well as the closing of Beirut's international airport is — according to the experts — simply the imposition of further isolation on the Muslim sector of Lebanon's capital by the Western world.

Nevertheless, the statement by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine concerning the removal of its hostages from Beirut and the threat to kill them in the event of a military attack, as well as the riddle concerning Terry Waite, have limited the United States' options for military intervention. However, according to some observers, the U.S. ruling clique now needs to resort to a military-propaganda action in order to regain its lost prestige. In any case, future events will clarify the situation — bearing in mind the possibility that everything is possible in Lebanon.

Lebanese Officials Speak at Tehran Conference

LD031649 Tehran IRNA in English 1606 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 3, IRNA — Lebanon's current issues were discussed at a round table conference at Laleh Hotel here Tuesday by various Lebanese personalities as well as foreign guests participating in the Ten-Day Dawn ceremonies which mark the 8th anniversary of the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Speaking at the conference, head of the Bureau of Lebanon's Hizbollah group in Tehran Hosayn Shahi said that the Islamic Revolution in Iran had encouraged the Lebanese to stand against plots of imperialist countries and the regime occupying Qods. [Jerusalem]

Hosayn Shahi said that the Islamic move has turned Lebanon into a bastion of a muhajid nation for resisting imperialism and Zionism. He also described the martyrdom of many members of Hizbollah group as a "turning point" in the fight with the Zionist regime of Israel.

The Lebanese Hizbollah official furthermore said "we have not launched any aggression against the U.S.. Britain, or France nor have we occupied Afghanistan or Palestine...we are part of an Islamic nation whose rights have been trampled upon. We do not possess ballistic missiles but have limited resources by which we exert pressure on foreign aggressors."

He also asked "should the rise of an oppressed nation to assert its denied right be called a terrorist move?"

Another speaker was Sharia judge of Sidon Shaykh Ahmad al-Zayn who elaborated on the camps war in Lebanon, saying that the Islamic Republic has launched a campaign for cementing gaps between Muslims.

An official of Lebanon's Islamic resistance Shaykh Muhammad Hajibi asid that the Muslim people of Lebanon could resist the aggressive moves of the regime occupying Qods with their heroic struggle. The Zionist army is not ready to repeat its past bitter experience of invading Lebanese territory.

Other participants from the community of Lebanese ulema discussed the situation in Lebanon.

Afghan Roundtable Views 'Political Deceptions'

NC040955 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] An Afghan roundtable was held yesterday afternoon at Tehran's Laleh Hotel with the participation of Mowlavi Nasrollah Mansur, leader of Afghanistan's Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami; Hojjat ol-Eslam (Hashemi Loranji), representative of the United Front of Afghanistan's Islamic Revolution; Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyni, representative of Afghanistan's Nasr organization; Hojjat ol-Eslam Zahedi, representative of Afghanistan's Islamic Jihad Guards' organization; and Mr Delju, representative of the Combatant Afghan Brothers, and in the presence of foreign and local guests at the 10-Day Dawn ceremonies. During

the roundtable discussion participants answered various questions on the problems of Afghanistan.

A Central News Unit report states that at the start of the roundtable discussions, Mowlavi Nasrollah Mansur extended congratulations on the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution and, referring to the part played by Afghanistan in nurturing the ulema and Muslim mujahidin as well as the Afghan people's services to Islam, said: The Muslim Afghan nation will not remain silent vis-a-vis the Soviet Government's aggression, and this is why Afghanistan's puppet regimes fall, one after the other. Referring to the aggressions and crimes perpetrated by the occupiers, he said: The Soviet propaganda media thought that the puppet governments would remain in Afghanistan. They call us insurgents and thieves, but everyone knows that Afghanistan's Muslim mujahidin have risen to establish the commandments of Allah. Stating that the United States and the Soviet Union are the enemies of Islam, Mowlavi Nasrollah Mansur said: The criminal United States has warned the Soviet Union about the threat of Islam, and they know that Islam is the force that can withstand their aggression. Continuing, he referred to the modern arms of the occupying Soviet forces and said: Despite all the investments of the occupying forces, they have not been able to destroy the mujahidin, and this is why they have resorted to the Geneva talks. But we say that the Geneva talks are only between the United States and the Soviet Union. The Afghan people have no role in them. In conclusion, he expressed hope that the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan will, like the Islamic Revolution of Iran, emerge victorious.

Our correspondent reports that as the roundtable discussions continued, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyni, representative of Afghanistan's Nasr organization, spoke about the national reconciliation plan and the stand of the Afghan Muslim mujahidin. He said: The fact that this plan was introduced in Afghanistan proves that the Soviet Union has been defeated. The Soviets have experienced numerous political, military, and cultural defeats in our country. He added: The occupying forces tried, through various means, to break the resistance of the Muslim Afghan people. But the 8 years of resistance by the Afghan Muslims forced the Soviets to accept their defeat, and this defeat was such that the Soviet Government had to admit that the Afghan people are Muslims and do not accept them.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyni also said: The national reconciliation plan is actually aimed at making the Afghan people accept the presence of the occupying forces in one way or another and stop their resistance, thus destroying the Islamic resistance and fulfilling the wishes of the Soviet elements in Afghanistan. But the Afghan people accept only Islam; hence their rejection of the cease-fire and the national reconciliation plan. He said: Any plan that harms the sovereignty and independence of the Muslim Afghan people, as well as the trend of Afghanistan's Islamic revolution, is rejected by the Muslim people of Afghanistan, and no one can speak on behalf of the Afghan nation. Hojjat ol-Eslam pointed out: Islam and the Koran represent the Afghan people. Islam calls for war on blasphemy, and the Muslim Afghan people will not stop until they realize this ideal.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Zahedi, from the organization of Afghanistan's Islamic Revolution Guards organization, then spoke, noting the need for unity among Afghanistan's combatant forces. He said: The Muslims of Afghanistan and all Muslims can achieve unity by returning to the Koran and accepting the divine commandments. He added: Unity among the combatant Afghan Muslims is needed to oust the occupying forces and the vestiges of Marxist parties from Afghanistan, to achieve Afghanistan's independence and end its dependence on both the East and the West, for Islamic rule to triumph in the Islamic country of Afghanistan, and, finally, for all Muslims to work together to liberate Jerusalem and for Islam to achieve sovereignty throughout the world. These are the joint goals of the Afghan mujahidin.

Then Mr Golju, representative of the Combatant Afghan Brothers, spoke about and condemned the national reconciliation plan put forth by the regime ruling Afghanistan, the Geneva talks, and other political deceptions aimed at forcing the Muslim Afghan nation into reconciliation. He said: If the enemy and international organizations are sincere, they should implement the recent UN Security Council resolution on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, which was approved with 124 votes. If the international organizations are sincere, they should prevent Iraqi bombing of schools, hospitals, cities, and religious shrines in the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: Although the war has been imposed on us, we have humbled the enemy with our struggle. We have no alternative but to continue the war; the Afghan nation thinks only of the sovereignty of Islam and the destruction of arrogance.

Text of Majlis Speaker's 28 Jan News Conference

PM031001 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Jan 87 p 2

[Report on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Tehran press conference by unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent]

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis and the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, took part in a press conference today attended by local and foreign journalists. He spoke about the Islamic Republic's positions with regard to various international issues. The speaker of the Majlis discussed the issue of Western hostages in Lebanon at this press conference, which was attended by an unprecedented number of foreign journalists. He spoke about the reasons behind the U.S. failure in trying to establish contacts with the Islamic Republic.

In reply to a Kuwaiti journalist who asked about the possibility of U.S. intervention in Iran he said: We are prepared to face any military move made by the United States. He added that the aggressive powers are like those who live in glass palaces, so it is not to their advantage to start a stone-throwing game.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said that Iran's advances in the war and during the Karbala' 5 operations were not reliant on sophisticated weaponry.

Here is the full text of the Majlis speaker's press conference. It must be noted that the speaker asked the journalists to relay his answers fully and without any comment.

A *New York Times* correspondent was the first to ask questions. He asked: What has Iran done so far to secure the release of hostages in Lebanon in the hands of groups supporting Iran?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: What we have done so far has been at the request of the United States and France. We have tried to find a way in Lebanon to have some influence on the crusaders who are holding the hostages and we have been somewhat successful. What we expected from the United States or France was not in the sense of a deal. We said to them: You expect us to do something for you, while you have been hostile to us and while you are dealing us blows. This is not a reasonable expectation. We must know that you do not intend to deliver blows against us. We told the Americans personally: If you release what belongs to us, which you have illegally been holding, for which you are even charging us storage fees, we shall consider this as a sign of U.S. goodwill. We told the French that holding our money is illegal. In addition to this we told them that if they stopped supporting the Iranian counterrevolutionaries and if they stopped their unlimited help toward Iraq, this would show their neutrality. The speaker of the Majlis stressed: We seriously want the hostages in Lebanon to be freed.

A Norwegian television correspondent asked: When and where was the last contact between the United States and the Iranian Government? Who took part in these bilateral talks and what results were achieved?

The Majlis speaker replied: Even after the disclosures of McFarlane's defeated trip, American officials continued their negotiations with our arms purchasing officials who work under the supervision of our intelligence authorities. I think their last session was about 1 month ago in Frankfurt.

The U.S. State Department sent someone called Dunbar along with others who had come here before. Dunbar brought a plan on behalf of the State Department and said that this duty had now been passed on to the State Department. Our intelligence authorities asked us what they should do and in reply we told them not to accept the plan. Our point is as we said before. The United States has to release our property and after that we will be ready to help with the release of the hostages.

A *Washington Post* reporter asked: You said that the negotiations were suspended after the arrival of the State Department representative. Will these contacts be renewed and will you buy more weapons from the United States other then those which have been frozen?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Our normal routine since the start of the war has been to buy parts from anywhere we could, except for Israel. We shall continue this trend. If the United States is ready and if it does not have any conditions we shall obtain our needs from that country.

He added: Under these conditions, when we see the United States is showing hostility, we do not deem it suitable to negotiate with them. We are negotiating with the United States in The Hague on the basis of the Algiers Accord and this tribunal is continuing its work. It has nothing to do with political issues or Lebanon or the hostages. One of the mischiefs of the United States has been to try to link these two issues.

A *Wall Street Journal* correspondent said: You have called the regional countries non-Islamic. What will your relations with these countries be like after the war?

[Rafsanjani] We do not say they are not Muslims, it is just that they do not obey all of Islam's laws. We do not intend to impose on them. First, we shall obey Islamic issues in our own country, with the freedom that Islam allows. Abroad we shall act in terms of making our position clear. What we expect is that Islamic countries should not allow Islamic thought to be attacked in their land.

A correspondent from one of London's television networks asked: Do you have any news about the Church of England envoy who has gone to Lebanon and disappeared?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: So far I have no information on this issue. But if something has happened, it is regrettable that a human being who is making an effort to solve problems has himself encountered problems. Of course if there is something we can do to help we will do it.

A correspondent of the *Al-A'lam* magazine published in London asked: Iran says the issue is to get even with Iraq. Could you please give more details about the destruction of the Iraqi war machine? Does this not mean that this would become a war of attrition?

The Majlis speaker replied: Our intention is not to have a war of attrition. A war of attrition is what the aggressive powers want. Our intention in the Karbala' 5 operational area is to weaken the Iraqi Army — which is the only supporting arm of the Ba'th Party — in such a way so as to open the way for Iraq's liberation. We believe that if the Iraqi war machine receives a serious blow, the Ba'th Party will collapse from within with the help of the Iraqi people and with the assistance that we will provide.

These blows that we have delivered around Barsa do not have the specifics of a war of attrition, rather they are severe and deadly blows.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council added: Another result of these blows is to have Iraq's supporters lose hope in Saddam. The Soviet Union, France, the United States, and regional reactionaries such as Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt, and others support Iraq and still believe that Iraq's Army can continue its resistance. We hope that the blow we will deliver will make them give up hope. If they cut off their support — this will also open the way for Iraq's liberation.

A correspondent from *Esquire* magazine asked: It seems that Iran is ready to start a final and decisive offensive. It seems that the trips by the deputy prime minister and deputy foreign minister to Saudi Arabia and Turkey pertained to this purpose. What is your view on this?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: This view is not far from reality. These trips are not unconnected with this issue. Of course you will see the details later.

Another correspondent asked: When I was on the fronts the Iranian troops were saying that they had sophisticated weapons, especially in air-defense. Did U.S. weapons have a major role in the Karbala' 5 operations?

The Majlis speaker said: Most of our military connections, specially in the Air Force, have been with the United States. During the war we did not try to change this system because it is expensive and at present there is no country in the world that would give us an advanced system. Our main task has been to copy the parts needed and to manufacture them at home. We have also bought a lot from the free market and through various dealers, at lower or higher prices.

We are still using American weapons. There are some Soviet-made and English goods and we purchase things from other places as well. What we got from the United States cost $30 million, which was overpriced. Perhaps their real value is not more than $20 or $15 million. We spend millions of dollars on our war every year, and this figure is small compared to other spending.

He added: The Iraqi planes were shot down during these operations using American, British, and Eastern surface-to-air missile systems. Most of our advance is not dependent on sophisticated weapons. In addition to this, what we received recently from the United States was mostly Tow missiles which have a range of 4 km. We manufacture this kind of missile ourselves and perhaps we will even export them in the future. So this was nothing important.

A Canadian television reporter asked: On 2 December a Canadian citizen was arrested in Iran on charges of spying. If you have any information regarding this matter, would you please elaborate?

The Majlis speaker said: I have also heard that this person has been arrested on charges of spying and that he is being questioned. After the investigations are over adequate information in this regard will be placed at the disposal of the Canadian Government by our responsible officials. If the charge is not serious, he will be released. But if the charge is serious, he will be dealt with in accordance with international laws.

The correspondent of a Kuwaiti newspaper asked: Israel has announced that Iran is making nuclear weapons, and Reagan has threatened a military attack on Iran. How do you feel about these issues?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: With regard to the Israeli news, they said a smuggler had some material which he was supposed to sell to us. This material is used in the making of nuclear weapons, but the deal never went through.

I must say that for a country with no nuclear reactor, making a nuclear bomb would be very difficult. Our view is that all nuclear weapons throughout the world have to be destroyed. We also do not accept a situation in which nuclear weapons are exclusively in the hands of only five or six countries. In that case it will not be possible to prevent other countries from seeking such weapons. For example, it is being said that Pakistan or Israel also have nuclear weapons. In any case these horrific weapons have to be removed from the face of the earth.

The Majlis speaker then spoke about Reagan's threat and said: At present there are rumors of a possible hostile military action launched by the United States, which of course does not make any sense because such a move is not in the interest of the United States. The aggressive powers are like those who live in glass palaces, so it would not be wise for them to engage in a stone-throwing game. Their very existence is vulnerable.

Iran has the capability to defend its interests throughout the whole world and has friends who can help it. But given the situation that Mr Reagan is now facing inside his own country with regard to the recent defeat he has experienced, the possibility does exist. It is possible that he will make a rushed and quick decision which would be very costly. While we do not see the logic in it, we have made ourselves ready for that day. It is possible that the United States may take some action in Lebanon or Syria or some place else, but in any case such a move would not be to its advantage.

A journalist from *Abrar* [Iranian newspaper] asked: The UN Security Council will today debate the plan proposed by the secretary general with regard to the imposed war. How do you feel about this issue? Will Iran approve of the resolutions issued at the Kuwait [ICO] summit?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The first thing that the UN Security Council has to do is determine who the aggressor is. It has to recognize Iraq as the one responsible for the war and the aggressor. If they were to admit this and start by saying that the Iraqi Ba'th Party is the aggressor, it would have some results. Based on this, we are ready to cooperate with any court that is competent. If it is anything other than this, the council cannot do anything.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council then spoke about the ICO summit in Kuwait and said: As far as we are concerned, if they say things in our absence and if they decide to find overlords for us, this means nothing to us. Of course they have every right to decide on issues that do not concern us. We had expected the ICO summit to be held in a neutral place so that we too could have had a voice in the affairs of Muslims.

A correspondent from Hungarian television asked: There are rumors that Reagan sent you a letter, a holy book, and some arms. Is this true? What is Israel's role in the arms shipments?

The Majlis speaker replied: There has been no letter received from Reagan. Of course McFarlane had brought messages for our president, prime minister, and myself which we did not accept. With regard to the weapons, they sent some Colt revolvers as presents which we also did not accpet.

The issue of the holy book was after McFarlane's trip. This is true and it occured after the failure of McFarlane's trip. They

sent some other things which we will disclose at a suitable time. On the back of this Bible, one of the gentlemen — Reagan himself — has written something in his own hand which is a verse of the Bible. The meaning of the verse is that the religions of the world have to be unified.

With regard to Israel's role, I do not know if it had a role or not. Because if it did, it would have kept it a secret from us since we will not have anything to do with something that is somehow connected with Israel. Once a planeload of goods was delivered to us and we found out that on the way back it had landed in Israel. We ordered the goods to be kept at the airport. We told the middlemen that they would have to take back the goods because their delivery plane had landed in Israel on the way back from Iran. They took back the goods at their own expense. I told them to tell the Americans that we needed a guarantee and that we could not accept the goods that had come from a plane that had landed in Israel on the way back.

A correspondent of the London *Times* asked: What do you think of the U.S. President? When he sent you this Bible, how did you feel?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: He did not send this Bible to me, but rather to the Islamic Republic of Iran. We did not have bad thoughts about him sending a Bible. He is a Christian and because he knows we are Muslims he wanted to find something in common between us. What he wrote on the back of the Bible is a verse from this book inviting all religions to unity.

He added: The reality is that we are still unable to trust the Americans. Of course I think that Mr Reagan is serious about what he said and he recognized this to be something good. But inside the United States his opposition defeated him and he showed weakness. He has to be brave and act in a more determined manner when it comes to U.S. interests. As he said, Iran is a powerful and strategic country and they cannot remain on non-speaking terms with it. We hope he is sincere in what he said. Of course he was brave in admitting that he had not found any proof or document in the last 1 and 1/2 years to link Iran with terrorism. It seems that the United States is facing some internal problems and this is not Mr Reagan's fault.

A correspondent from Japan's NHK television network asked: Until today no document had been published to prove McFarlane's trip to Iran. Why have you publicized it today? Does this mean that you do not wish to have relations with the United States at any level?

The spokesman of the Supreme Defense Council said: We had said some things before. In addition to all we have said so far, we have many such things. Their fake passports have been revealed before, and here are photocopies of the passports used by the delegation that came to Iran with McFarlane.

A Belgian television reporter asked: The people of Belgium say the leaders of Iran and Iraq are not very bright to be fighting like this. What do you think about this and what are the real conditions for ending the war?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Of course the person who started the war is not very bright. What would Belgium do if someone attacked it? Should we have remained silent in the face of this attack? Even to this day our Naftshahr is in their hands. Is it not right to defend? We are defending ourselves. Is it not smart for a country to try to punish the aggressor? If that is the case then the courts of the entire world have to be condemned. Our real conditions for ending the war are: punishment for the aggressor, payment of war damages, and the return to their homeland of all the Iraqis who have become refugees.

A *Tehran Times* correspondent asked: The Iraqi leaders take any action they can to stay in power, such as the bombardment of civilian areas and towns. What effect has this had on the Iranian people? What defensive measures have been taken to counter this move?

The Majlis speaker said: If this is bombing cities, it just means that the people get to know their enemy better. It makes the people more serious in their effort to struggle against the enemy.

He added: There is no country that can make all its towns untouchable in the face of sophisticated jet fighters. Of course we have taken some measures which, if God willing, will be revealed later. Our main objective is to put more pressure on them in the war fronts. Retaliation is another objective we will step up when it comes to Baghdad.

The same correspondent then asked: It is being said that Dr Velayati wants to go to Moscow. What do you think about this?

The Majlis speaker said: Our program is to have good relations with all our neighbors, including the Soviet Union, even though the Soviet Union with all the weapons it has given Iraq, is partly responsible for these crimes. But this will not prevent us from expanding our relations. This trip is taking place at the invitation of the Soviet foreign minister.

A reporter from the newspaper *Jomhuri-ye Eslami* asked: What is your analysis of the U.S. insistence on the holding of the ICO summit in Kuwait? How do you view Saddam's refusal to attend the summit?

Hojjat ol-Eslami Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied: It is clear that the United States has many friends at this conference. They may even make up the majority and it is normal that it should want the summit to go ahead.

He added: With regard to Saddam not attending the summit, I feel that Saddam has problems leaving Iraq.

A *Financial Times* correspondent asked: Is your condition simply the removal of Saddam or does the Ba'th Party have to go as well?

The Majlis speaker said: We have said from the beginning that Saddam has to go. Of course it would not be logical to take one person to court and to leave the others alone in a war of this scale. Of course I think that if Saddam goes the road will be opened for the rest of the issue.

A German correspondent asked: Two Germans have been taken hostage in Lebanon. Will you help to gain their release?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied: We want very much to help Germany. We have received a letter from the German foreign minister asking for our help, but so far we have not achieved anything.

He added: Several of our officials, including Mr Motevaselani, have been held in secret by the Phalange for 3 or 4 years, and their families have received no word from them. You know that the Phalange are under the influence of the Americans and France and others. Why do you not feel sorry for our people who have been kidnapped? Even those who caused explosions in the prime minister's office, at the headquarters of the Islamic Republican Party, and at the Friday prayers, martyring several of our leaders — you defend them and you place everything at their disposal. How can you expect them not to treat you like this in Lebanon?

A journalist from Italy then commented on the incident involving an Iranian ship in the port of Genoa and asked the Majlis speaker about relations between Iran and Italy.

The Majlis speaker said: That was a bitter incident for us. It was like the fake film "Sweet and Savage." In any case the situation was resolved, especially when the Italian court condemned the makers of that movie. Therefore, we have no reason not to be close to Italy and not to have bilateral cooperation.

At the conclusion of the press conference a correspondent of the Italian news agency asked: Colonel al-Qadhdhafi asked 3 days ago that an Islamic peacekeeping force be organized to be deployed between Iranian and Iraqi troops. How do you feel about this?

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said: Yasir 'Arafat proposed the same thing 2 years ago. We are not sure the Libyan leader has suggested such a thing. Justice has to be done. Mr al-Qadhdhafi has identified the aggressor and he has asked that he be toppled. If they [not further specified] say the same thing the issue will be over.

Khamene'i Honors Martyrs, Visits Wounded

LD041046 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 4, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i visited Tehran's Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery where he paid tribute to the martyrs of revolution here Wednesday morning. He also visited the wounded of the Iraqi-imposed war in a Tehran hospital later the same morning. At the cemetery the president, who is also the head of the Supreme Defence Council talked to a group of family members of the martyrs on the fourth day of the 10-Day Dawn ceremonies, named "Day of War and Revolution."

Mother of martyr Saeed Adouli, a Muslim combatant who bravely fought in the ongoing Karbala'-5 operations, told the president that she was proud of her son. She also expressed hope for final victory of Islam.

Later in the morning the president unexpectedly visited wounded of the war in Tehran's "Haftom Tir" hospital, where he talked to each of the Muslim combatants and presented them [with] flowers and gifts. One of the hospitalised combatants told the head of the Supreme Defence Council that he would join the war fronts as soon as he recovered in order to avenge the blood of Iranians martyred in Iraqi attacks on civilian areas.

The president also attended a gathering of staff of the hospital and praised their hard work and services rendered to the wounded combatants.

Musavi Seeks Maximum Assistance for Troop Dispatch

LD031712 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Under an order issued by Prime Minister Mr Hoseyn Musavi all ministries, government organizations and institutions, Islamic Revolution bodies, and offices of governors general throughout the country are required to provide the maximum assistance necessary to effect the most extensive dispatch of the nationwide Mahdi Army, may God, the most exalted, hasten His glad advent. The order says: The army of his holiness Mahdi is going to write yet another of the most proud pages of the history of the revolution. Islam's second revival is awaiting those who are awaiting the awaited Mahdi. At this most fateful juncture in the most blessed life of the Islamic Revolution and in these days in which divine duties are expected to be performed, all ministries, government organizations and institutions, Islamic Revolution bodies, and offices of the governors general throughout the country are duty bound to provide the maximum assistance necessary to effect this nationwide dispatch as extensively and gloriously as possible, whether it be the dispatch of their own volunteers in this victorious army or providing assistance to assemble the necessary facilities for this destiny-making dispatch.

Vanguard Corps, Battalions Leave for Fronts

NC040805 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that 300 members of the Karbala' Husayni, named the Vanguard Corps of the Mahdi, glory be to God and His blessings upon us, were sent yesterday afternoon from Darab to the fronts of the imposed war. Also, two battalions of combat-specialized volunteer forces left for the war threaters from Kazerun and Jahrom. The report also states that one battalion and two companies of Basij forces from Lamerd District hamlets left for the fronts of the war with the Zionist enemy.

Further on Karbala' 5, 6 Combat Operations

Iraq Raids on Cities Kill Civilians

LD031810 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 3, IRNA — Some civilians were martyred and wounded in Iraqi air raids on residential areas of Khorram-

abad, Esfahan, Pol-e Dokhtar, and Kuhdasht cities on Tuesday. Several houses were destroyed or damaged in the raid.

Planes Hit Iraqi Positions 4 Feb
LD041033 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 4, IRNA — Several Iranian fighter-bombers in two separate missions pounded Iraqi positions and troop concentration centers of Iraqi armoured and infantry forces in Karbala'-5 operational region, Wednesday morning, said a Joint Staff headquarters statement.

The Iranian planes returned safely to bases after inflicting heavy damage and losses on the enemy forces, it added.

IRGC Artillery Fire Hits Umm Qasr
LD041417 Tehran IRNA in English 1414 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 4, IRNA — Strategic port of Umm Qasr in southern Iraq came under long-range artillery fire of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC) as of Tuesday afternoon in retaliation for Iraqi bombardment of Iran's residential areas.

Heavy damage was inflicted on industrial sites, gunboats, missile bases, and naval garrisons in the shelling, the smoke of which engulfed the whole region.

Communique No 2,738
LD031658 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 3, IRNA — Scores of civilians were martyred and wounded in Iraqi bombings of the Iranian cities of Orumiyeh, Malayer, Manjil, Nahavand, Tafresh, Ashtian, Rudbar, Mari van, Esfahan, Kuhdasht, Khorramabad, and Qom on Monday and Tuesday, said a military communique here Tuesday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,736 said that Iran's Muslim forces launched an assault against Iraqi positions in Sumar, western fronts early Monday, recapturing a strategic height and killing 100 Iraqi soldiers. Many other Iraqi soldiers were wounded and a large amount of their military hardware destroyed in the Iranian surprise attack. Movement of enemy motorized units was also checked.

Iranian fighter bombers heavily pounded Iraqi positions and armoured units east of Basra five times Tuesday and returned safely to bases. Earlier on Monday, Iraqi positions in the Karbala'-5 operational theater had been bombed by Iranian fighters seven times.

In retaliation for Iraqi air raids on residential areas in Iran, Iranian long range artillery fire shelled Iraqi industrial and military targets in Basra, 'Ali al-Gharbi, Khanaqin, Banmil, Badrah, Mandali, Dhu Shaykh, Khurmal, Halabjah, Sulaymaniyah, Choman Mostafa, Mama Qalan, Dojeila [name as received], Doulehsour [name as received], Harzalah, Monday and Tuesday. Heavy losses were inflicted on these targets.

At least 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 10 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts Monday as they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie Forces.

In Panjwin and Sayyid Sadiq, northwestern fronts, Iranian Muslim combatants checked Iraqi military operations and shelled enemy engineering vehicles setting ablaze a number of them.

Iraqi armoured units in Nahr-e Anbar suffered heavy damage by artillery fire of Iranian Muslim forces, the communique concluded.